

"The Progression Of Holy Passion"

Session Two:

Overview Of The Song Of Songs (1-4)

I) Introduction

- A) Jennifer and I's encounter at Generation Unleashed in January 2006.
- B) Today, my target is to give an overview of the first half of the Song of Songs to help us understand the story as a whole, not just parts, which will be the majority of this series.

II) The Divine Kiss and the Bride's life vision (SOS 1:1-4)

- A) The entire theme of the Song of Solomon is the bride's two fold life vision of being drawn away in intimacy and running with others in ministry. And all of this is driven by hunger.
- B) **Song of Songs 1:2,4** *"Let Him kiss me with the Kisses of His Word (Hunger)...Draw me away(Intimacy)! We will run after You(ministry)..."*
 - 1) This is the bride's thesis. This is what I call the bride's two fold life vision. She understands that intimacy is **primarily** something that is done on her own, and ministry is something that is **always done in community**.
 - 2) She is saying, before I am able run in ministry I must be drawn in intimacy with You.
 - 3) She knew, like so many of us, that before she was able to run with a message, she had to sit with Christ in the place of intimacy.
 - (i) **Mark 12:30-31** *"And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this; You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no greater commandment than these."*

III) Being Dark and Lovely (SOS 1:5-11)

- A) The bride steps out of the Groom's chamber's and runs directly into her own weakness and sin nature. His holy presence caused both the light and dark in her to surface.
- B) **Song Of Songs 1:5** *"I am dark but lovely, O daughters of Jerusalem, like the tents of Kedar, like the curtains of Solomon."*

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- 1) She realizes that she is both dark in Adam and light in Christ. This isn't a moment, but the revelation of her sin nature. But she doesn't see only her sin, she also sees her new life in Christ. The truth of God's presence must cause both to surface in us like it did her.

C) **Song Of Songs 1:6** *"My mother's sons were angry with me; they made me the keeper of the vineyards, but my own vineyard I haven't kept."*

- 1) Because she is passionate about loving God she says yes to everything and the Church works her into the ground. Not only are the vineyards that she was overseeing neglected, but her own vineyard becomes barren as well.

D) **Song of Songs 1:8** *"If you do not know O fairest among women..."*

- 1) In this place of great confusion and brokenness He breaks in and declares His love for her and gives her wisdom about what to do in her situation.

IV) The Bride Begins To Understand Her Beauty In Christ (SOS 2:1-7)

A) **Song of Songs 2:1-2** *"I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys. Like a lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters."*

- 1) She is being awakened to the reality that among the billions of the earth that don't love God, she does and He sees that. She is saying, my love for you, though it's weak, it's like a lily among thorns. It's precious to God.

B) **Song of Songs 2:3** *"I sat down under His shade with great delight..."*

C) **Psalm 121:5-6** *"The Lord is your keeper; The Lord is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day..."*

- 1) Here she is sitting in the finished work of the Cross, realizing that she is unable to produce the shade of God for her life. She nor we can produce on our own the rest that comes through Christ and the Cross.

V) Challenging The Comfort Zone (SOS 2:8-17)

A) **Song of Songs 2:8-9** *"The voice of my beloved! Behold He comes, leaping upon the mountains, skipping upon the hills...My Beloved spoke, and said to me; rise up My love, My fair one, and come away."*

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- 1) At this point in the Song the bride has recovered from being overworked by the brothers and she is now enjoying the presence of the Lord. She is enjoying personal intimacy with Him. But His plan is not to have her only in the chamber of love, but upon the mountains with Him, as an equally yoked bridal partner doing the work of the ministry in nations.
- 2) This really surprises her, as she sees a new face of Christ. It's disruptive to her quite life.
 - (i) **Colossians 2:15** *"Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them."*
- B) **Song of Songs 2:17** *"Until the day breaks and the shadows flee away, turn my Beloved, and be like a gazelle or a young stag upon the mountains of Bether (Separation)."*
 - 1) Because of the fear of the unknown, not wanting to lose her quite intimacy with Him, she says no to His call to go up to the mountains and partner in ministry with Him.
 - 2) What she doesn't realize, is that He is going to move on from her, withdrawing His manifest presence off her life to motivate her to get up and move towards Him.

VI) The Bride Experiences God's Loving Discipline(SOS 3:1-11)

- A) **Song of Songs 3:1-3** *"By night on my bed I sought the One I love, I sought Him, but couldn't find Him...I will seek the One I love...have you seen the One I love?"*
 - 1) The bride is on her bed, when He called her up to the mountains. In just 3 verses she says 7 times that she is seeking (Him) or the (One I love). He has withdrawn His presence off her life to get her out of the bridal chamber and up to the mountains with Him.
 - 2) Her seeking is all about love. She isn't looking for the God of anointed ministry, the God of prosperity or the God of glory but she's seeking the One whom she loved. Her seeking is about love and passion for Him.
 - 3) In **Song of Songs 3:4** she finds Him and discovers Him to be a safe Savior, One whom she can trust. This chapter closes with the bride being transported from Shunem to Jerusalem by the King Himself.

VII) The Prophetic Heart Of the Bridegroom God (SOS 4:1-8)

- A) **Song of Songs 4:1a** *"Behold you are all fair My love! Behold, you are fair..."*
 - 1) **Song of Songs 4:1b** *"You have doves eyes behind your veil."*

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- 2) It's here that King Jesus speaks to the heart of the bride with prophetic passion. In **Song of Songs 4:1-5** He speaks about 8 virtues that she is longing for internally but hasn't manifested externally. These are the hidden longings internally that He is addressing her by. He's not speaking about her external, but her internal.
 - 3) When she hears this from Him, it evokes holy passion within the bride and causes her to respond with a resounding "yes" to follow Him up to the mountains where He had originally called her in Chapter 2.
- B) **Song of Songs 4:6** *"Until the day breaks and the shadows flee away, I will go my way to the mountain of myrrh and to the hill of frankincense."*
- 1) **Luke 9:23** *"If anyone wants to follow Me, let Him deny Himself, take up his cross daily and follow Me."*
 - 2) The bride is saying that she will follow Jesus until. This is the until of God. This is a yes to the daily pursuit of loving Jesus through the highs and lows. Until the shadows flee away.

VIII) The Ravished Heart Of God (SOS 4:9-15)

- A) **Song of Songs 4:9** *"You have ravished My heart, My sister, My spouse; You have ravished My heart with one look of your eyes, with one link of your necklace."*
- 1) This is the uncreated God, ravished over a simple yes. The bride hasn't done anything, only said yes. That word ravished means (Overwhelmed with emotion, undone, held spellbound). God's heart is ravished over the weak "yes" of fallen humanity.
- B) **Song of Songs 4:16** *"Awake, O north wind, and come O south! Blow upon my garden, that it's spices may flow out. Let my Beloved come to His garden and eat it's pleasant fruits."*
- 1) This is the great shift of the Song of Songs. The north wind was a cold bitter wind and the south wind was a warm refreshing wind.
 - (i) **Job 37:9** *"From the chamber of the south comes a whirlwind, and cold from the scattering winds of the north."*
 - (ii) **Luke 12:55** *"And when you see the south wind blow, you say, there will be hot weather; and there is."*
 - 2) She is saying to God, come what may. Send pressure, send blessing, do whatever you have to do, because if You're really ravished over me, if You're really held spellbound by my weak yes, then I say do whatever You have to do! Come what may, I am Yours.